

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

Some claims are canceled in the amendment to clarify the issues for appeal. More specifically, claims 1-26 have been cancelled and claim 27 is amended. Therefore, claims 27-34 are present for examination. No new matter is added by these amendments, which are fully supported by the specification. Further, the amendment to claim 27 is believed to clarify the issues for appeal. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims in a continuing application without any prejudicial effect. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

First Interview After Final

On February 17, 2005, the Examiner granted an interview to discuss the claim amendments and the outstanding rejections. The Applicant especially appreciates this opportunity as interviews like this are discretionary. The interview summary indicates that claims 27-34 define over the prior art.

Second Interview After Final

On April 14 and 22, 2005, the Examiner granted another interview to discuss the claim amendments. The Applicant especially appreciates this opportunity as interviews like this are discretionary. Further amendments were proposed to clarify that claims 27-34 define over the prior art. The Examiner expressed a belief that the claims as amended above were allowable over the prior art.

Pulling Case from Appeal

Given the allowability noted in the interviews, Applicant respectfully requests this case be pulled down from appeal and allowed.

Appl. No. 09/307,485
Amdt. dated April 14, 2005
Preliminary Amendment

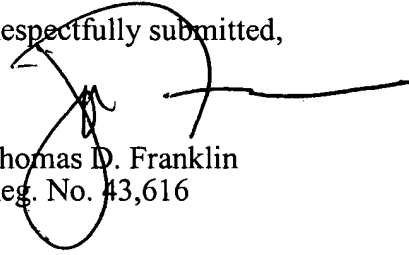
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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